

The Eagle

SUBSCRIPTION TWO DOLLARS IN ADVANCE.
Issued on Thursday each week from the Eagle Building.

REFORM IN FAIR MANAGEMENT.

The last issue of the Kansas City Indicator has the following: "An exhibition that will be well worth traveling a long distance to see will be the procession of about 600 thoroughbred cattle on the streets of Kansas City, on Thursday, November 1st, the opening day of the fat stock show. The breeders of polled cattle promise to furnish about 300 head of this unprecedented parade."

This is a step in the right direction. One of the needs of the hour in connection with all American shows of livestock is better facilities for public inspection of the animals on exhibition. All fair-goers are cognizant of the difficulty of obtaining a "good look," especially in the horse and cattle classes. Stalls are either locked up tight, or animals are so covered with blankets as to render a satisfactory examination out of the question. Of course exhibitors have some rights in this regard which the public should respect; but there is something radically wrong in the system of fair management now in vogue. Unless one is present at the time the various rings are being judged, it is next to impossible to form any conception of the stock on exhibition.

Why may we not copy with advantage from the trans-Atlantic show? At the Royal, for example, all the animals in the horse and cattle classes must be brought out each day and paraded around three or four times in front of the amphitheatre, so that every visitor can get a good look at them. In addition to this, a sign is erected which tells plainly just what class is being paraded; and then each animal wears its number on a large card suspended by a cord or ribbon from the neck. The bystander, catalogue in hand, can then turn to it and get all the information he may desire about the name, age, ownership, breeding, etc., of any animal about which he may desire to obtain such information. This is certainly a most desirable feature. There is ample time after the closing of the entries for the publication of a catalogue, and the sales of such a work would amply repay the outlay, to say nothing of the additional satisfaction which such a thing would give to visitors.

During the writer's visit to the Royal show at York, in July last, he was more impressed with the value of this catalogue of the animals, and the daily parade, than with anything else connected with the management. It will be a long step in the right direction when our most important stock shows or fairs shall close their entries long enough in advance of the opening day to enable them to adopt this system. Our exhibitors could soon be educated up to it, and all will be pleased and interested by it. It would happen here, as in Great Britain, that animals would be catalogued which, from various causes, might not be shown; but this is only a trivial objection, compared with the great benefit to be derived from the publication of a catalogue.—Breeder's Gazette.

TO CURE EGG-EATING.

Sometimes the habit is formed by the carelessness of the kitchen maid or housekeeper, in throwing the eggshells into the pail and giving them with the other waste to the hens. This should never be done, if you want the hens to respect their own eggs. Understanding the cause of this untidy habit, it is not very difficult to provide a remedy. From a recent experience we have found that the habit is very much broken by an abundant supply of crushed shells. It had grown so bad in a flock of twenty Light Brahmas, owing to neglect of this ration, that they devoured every egg, without the closest watching, at the crack of every laying hen. Upon giving the shells every morning, the craving ceased, and we found the eggs remaining in the nests undisturbed. As an assistant to this remedy, we manufactured an egg-trap from a common nest-box. This is so simple that any one accustomed to the use of tools can make it in an hour or two. A slight inclination of the board upon which the nest-egg is fastened will cause the new-laid egg to roll away from under the hen beyond her reach as soon as it is dropped. The rear board has the same inclination toward the center, and projects over the other board far enough to protect the egg when it has rolled away. The space between the boards is just wide enough to give free passage to the eggs. The egg-box may be lined with a handful of sawdust or chaff to protect the shells from cracking. If the back board is furnished with hinges, it can be used as a lid to allow of the removal of the eggs. It is a complete egg-trap, and, with the oyster shells, in our case, about the most effective of egg-eating. Many think that when a hen has contracted the habit of egg-eating the shortest way is the best, and instead of eating she is put in a condition to be eaten. But a good layer is too valuable to be given up without an effort to reform her bad habit, often acquired through the negligence of the owner. The egg-trap works admirably, and secures the end desired by placing it out of the power of the hen to do mischief.—American Agriculturist.

TO TRANSPLANT TREES.

Many think it cheaper and better to take up large trees from the woods and transplant them to their grounds or to the roadside than to buy nursery trees. As a rule, such trees die; they fall because proper precautions have not been taken. In digging up the tree, all the roots outside a circle a few feet in diameter are cut off, and the tree is reset with its full head of branches. Whoever has seen trees in the forest that were uprooted by a tornado must have been struck by the manner in which the roots run very near to the surface, and to a great distance. When the roots of these trees are cut off at two or three feet from the trunk, few or no fibrous or feeding roots are left; and if the mass of tops is left, the expansion of the buds in the spring will be retarded, and the tree will be a bare pole, they will usually grow when transplanted. The tree is little more than an immense cutting; but there are roots enough left to meet the demand of the few shoots that start from the top, and grow above and below ground in well balanced. We have seen maple, elm and basswood trees, fifteen feet high, or more, transplanted in this manner without a failure. Some trees treated in this manner were planted in our neighborhood about ten years ago. They have now as fine heads as one would wish, and show no signs of former rough treatment. Trees in pastures, or on the edge of the woods, are better furnished with roots. These should be prepared for transplanting by digging down to the roots and cutting off all that extend beyond the desired distance. This will cause the formation of fibrous roots near the tree. It will be safer to take two years for the operation, cutting half of the roots each year. Such trees may be removed in safety, especially if a good share of the top is removed at transplanting.—Agriculturist.

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